



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, December 24, 2009

Electricity

Update: More than 85,000 Customers Remain Without Power along U.S. East Coast December 24

About 85,000 customers remained without power in West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia on December 24, several days after a winter storm cut power to nearly 345,000 customers across the three states, sources reported. Utilities in North Carolina, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Maryland restored power to nearly all affected customers, as of latest reports. Appalachian Power, the hardest-hit utility, expected to restore service to most of its downed customers by tomorrow night, but said some customers would remain in the dark through the weekend. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

East Coast Winter Storm Customer Power Outages			
December 18 – December 24, 2009			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Appalachian Power	WV	135,500	28,755
Allegheny Energy	WV	31,000	3,210
Kentucky Power	KY	69,624	21,353
Kentucky Utilities	KY	35,000	6,000
Jackson Energy Cooperative	KY	16,000	0
Licking Valley Rural Electric	KY	8,500	500
Appalachian Power	VA	43,200	24,400
Dominion	VA	6,000	776
Progress Energy	NC	67,000	29
Duke Energy	NC	19,781	394
Haywood EMC	NC	9,600	26
Appalachian Power	TN	19,456	495
NSTAR	MA	15,000	1,000
BG&E	MD	11,000	70
TOTAL*		486,661	87,008

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

Appalachian Power (WV, VA, TN): <https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/>
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=December%2018%20Snow%20Storm%20-%20VA>

Allegheny Energy (WV)

http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/OMS_Customer_State.aspx?Option=State&User=

Kentucky Power (KY):

<https://kentuckypower.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=December%2018%20Snow%20Storm%20-%20Kentucky%20Power>, <http://www.lex18.com/news/90000-still-without-power-in-state-following-snowstorm/>

Kentucky Utilities (KY): <http://www.eon-us.com/storm/interactivemap/default.htm>, <http://www.eon-us.com/storm/default.asp>, http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r03.PDF

Jackson Energy Cooperative (KY): http://www.psc.state.ky.us/agencies/psc/press/122009/1221_r01.PDF,
<http://www.jacksonenergy.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=60>
<http://www.jacksonenergy.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=62>

Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Corp.:

http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r01.PDF,
http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r03.PDF

Progress Energy (NC): <http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutus/news/article.asp?id=23142>

Duke Energy (NC): <http://www.duke-energy.com/outages/stats/> , <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20091219/NEWS01/91218069/1311>
Haywood EMC (NC): <http://www.haywoodemc.com/pages/outages.htm> ,
http://www.yourdailyjournal.com/printer_friendly/5250396
Dominion (VA): <http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/winter-storm-races-north/>
<http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/winter-storm-races-north/>
<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>
NSTAR (MA) http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/storm_center/updates.asp
Baltimore Gas & Electric – BG&E (MD): <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/nearly-10000-in-central-maryland-lost-power-79757402.html>
<http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=218081>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/21/us/21storm.html/>

Freezing Rain, Sleet Knock Out Power to 31,000 ComEd Customers in Illinois December 23

At least 17,000 customers remained without power, as of latest reports.
http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2009/12/24/r_dnzdzumdwt5uig1fuy77jmq/index.xml
<http://www.rrstar.com/news/x1689180978/17-000-ComEd-customers-without-power>

Southern's 1,149 MW Vogtle Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Shut by December 24

Operators shut the unit "due to a loss of instrument air to the turbine building" on December 23, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of December 23 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>
Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuke Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 77 Percent by December 24

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 23 the unit was operating at 94 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: AEP's 1,030 MW D.C. Cook Nuke Unit 1 in Michigan Ramped Up to Full Power by December 23

American Electric Power (AEP) restarted the unit by December 18, some 15 months after it shut due to turbine vibrations and associated damage, sources reported. The unit shut "when turbine vibrations, caused by broken low-pressure turbine blades, damaged the turbine generator, support structures and associates systems" in September 2008, AEP said in a release. AEP plans to operate the unit at about 70 MW below capacity until the fall of 2011, when it aims to install new equipment and resume full output. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 22 the unit was operating at 96 percent.

<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/?id=1581>
<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/?id=1582>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2221290420091222?type=marketsNews>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1821619820091218?type=marketsNews>
Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuke Unit in New York at Full Power by December 24

Operators slowed the unit to repair a condenser on December 22, a spokeswoman said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 23 the unit was operating at 55 percent.

Bloomberg News, 09:08 December 23, 2009
Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Luminant to Shut 591 MW Sandow Coal-fired Unit 4 in Texas December 24

The company planned to shut the unit "to repair a condenser tube leak," it said in a filing with state regulators. It did not say when the unit might return to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133648>

Petroleum

Pump Fire Forces Shut Crude Unit at Valero's 243,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery December 24

The fire was extinguished quickly, and "a small secondary fire in a gas line" was contained, a spokesman said. It was unknown if the incident had any impact to production, he said.

Reuters, 09:40 December 24, 2009

Bloomberg News, 10:46 December 24, 2009

Silver Eagle to Restart Explosion-Damaged Unit on January 24 at 10,250 b/d Woods Cross, Utah Refinery

Silver Eagle Refining Inc. expects to start a crude unit on January 24 at its 10,250 b/d Woods Cross, Utah refinery, more than two months after an early-November explosion forced the facility offline. The plant's entire refining capacity remains offline, as of December 23, a spokeswoman said.

Bloomberg News, 10:39 December 24, 2009

Oil Refiners Struggle amid Weak Economy and Surge in Renewable Fuels

Weak economics and lagging oil demand have slowed the once-booming oil refining industry, and some expect the trend to continue amid increased fuel efficiency standards and growth in alternative energy sources, *The New York Times* reported on December 24. Companies have shuttered four U.S. refineries in 2009, but Tesoro Corporation's chief economist says the market remains oversupplied. The industry must cut about 5-to-8 percent of its 18 million b/d capacity, he says.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/24/business/energy-environment/24refining.html?_r=1&hp

Gasoline Supplies Returning to Normal after Weather-Induced Crunch along U.S. East Coast December 23

Trucks resumed fuel deliveries to stations along the U.S. East Coast on December 23, days after heavy snow forced suppliers from the roads and led to outages at up to 15 percent of the region's dealers, a news source said. One analyst blamed the shortages on delayed shipments, low inventories, panic purchases and inflated post-storm demand.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iLxS7wF8BLh6OIpi56fdH8lN-bzwD9CP88100>

Update: Operators Restart 600,000 b/d Iraq-to-Turkey Oil Pipeline December 24

The line was delivering about 22,000-to-23,000 barrels/hour of oil, as of this morning, a shipping source said. It shut due to a suspected attack over the weekend. It typically delivers 420,000-to-450,000 b/d of oil—below its 600,000 b/d capacity—from Kirkuk, Iraq to Ceyhan, Turkey, according to a previous news source.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2009/12/2009122013166878529.html>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/22/content_12688810.htm

Bloomberg News, 01:32 December 22, 2009

Reuters, 04:16 December 24, 2009

Natural Gas

Spectra Energy Restarts Boyd Creek Compressor Station along East Tennessee Natural Gas Pipeline in Tennessee by December 23

The facility shut or curtailed rates by December 20, according to a previous company statement. It was not clear how much capacity had been affected. The associated 1,510-mile East Tennessee Natural Gas pipeline system delivers supplies to the U.S. Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, a news source said.

Reuters, 16:40 December 23, 2009

Other News

Alton Coal Aims to Produce up to 2 Million Tons of Coal at Surface Strip Mine in Utah

Alton Coal seeks approval from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to strip mine coal from a 635-acre tract near Alton, Utah, and mine for coal from 3,500 acres of nearby land, a news source said. The company expects to mine up to 2 million tons of surface coal; the project would take as long as three years.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14034698

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 24, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	76.23	71.86	32.90
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.55	5.57	5.37

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Winter Storm Disrupts Air and Road Travel across U.S. Midwest and Great Plains December 24

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126166786780404373.html>

Ice and Winds Knock Out Electricity to About 14,000 PSO Customers in Oklahoma December 24

<http://www.koamtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11728422>

Freezing Rain Cuts Power to about 12,000 Alliant Customers in Wisconsin December 24— Just Over 1,000 Remain Without Power, as of Latest Reports

<http://www.wiscnews.com/spe/news/468806>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/80058412.html>

<http://www.alliantenergy.com/UtilityServices/StormOutageCenter/ElectricalOutageSummary/index.htm>

SunEdison, Xcel Energy to Open 50 MW Solar Power Project in New Mexico by End of 2011

http://www.krqe.com/dpp/living_green/sunedison-xcel-announce-solar-energy-project?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+krqe-environment+%28KRQE+News+13+-+Environment%29

Ram Power Receives Condition Use Permit for Planned 49.9 MW Orita I Geothermal Power Project in California—Company Expects to Complete Facility in First Quarter of 2013

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ram-power-corp-announces-orita-project-conditional-use-permit-80008187.html>

Line Restriction Triggers Flaring During Planned Restart at ExxonMobil's 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery December 23—Company Sees Minimal Production Impact

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091223-713400.html>

<http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/79918822.html>

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=83d3c57c42cf3ed3>

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705353432/Agreement-reached-on-Utahs-Nine-Mile-Canyon-drilling.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133643>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133633>

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/matsu/story/1066815.html>

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091222/pl_afp/usitinternetsecuritypolitics_2009122210227;_ylt=AjmV6XXcjA_D4l8mOhLq75esOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTM0OXRRzZWNOBGFzc2V0A2FmcC8yMDA5MTIyMi9lc2l0aW50ZXIuZXRzZWNIcm10eXBvbGl0aWNzBHBvcwMxOQRzZWMDcW5fcGFnaW5hdGVfc3VtbWFyeV9saXN0BHNsawNmb3JtZXJidXNoYWQ-

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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